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PAGE 01 STATE 145775

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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KUWAIT POUCH BAGHDAD

FOLL REPEAT STATE 145775 ACTION HONG KONG 23 JUN 75, ALL NATO
CAPITALS, NATO, TEL AVIV, CAIRO, AMMAN, MOSCOW, PEKING,
JAKARTA, MANILA, BANGKOK, SEOUL, TOKYO AND CINCPAC 20 JUN 75:

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E.O. 11652: ADS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: US PUBLIC OPINION ON FOREIGN POLICY

FOR USNATO: PLEASE PASS DIRECTOR NATO INFORMATION STAFF,
CLAUS KOREN

1. POSTS WILL BE INTERESTED IN FULL TEXT OF MOST RECENT
SURVEY RELEASED BY LOUIS HARRIS WHICH REFLECTS AMERICAN
OPINION RE DEFENSE OF SOUTH KOREA AND OTHER ISSUES INVOLV-
ING USE OF TROOPS ABROAD, PLUS SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL. FULL
TEXT FOLLOWS.

2. DESPITE OUR EXPERIENCE IN VIETNAM, A 43-37 PER CENT
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PAGE 02 STATE 145775

PLURALITY OF AMERICANS FAVORS USING U.S. TROOPS, AIR POWER

AND NAVAL POWER TO DEFEND SOUTH KOREA IF IT WERE INVADED BY COMMUNIST NORTH KOREA.

3. THIS LATEST HARRIS SURVEY, CONDUCTED IN MAY AFTER THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TAKEOVER OF THE SOUTH AND CAMBODIA AND THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT, INDICATES THAT A SIZABLE NUMBER OF AMERICANS DO NOT OPPOSE THE USE OF AMERICAN MILITARY POWER IN FOREIGN WARS AS A RESULT OF VIETNAM, AS POPULARLY BELIEVED.

4. VIETNAM HAS ALSO NOT AFFECTED THE PUBLIC'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE US COMMITMENT IN ISRAEL. A 62-18 PER CENT MAJORITY FEELS "IT IS RIGHT FOR THE US TO SEND ISRAEL THE MILITARY SUPPLIES IT NEEDS." THESE RESULTS REPRESENT VIRTUALLY NO CHANGE FROM THOSE OF LAST JANUARY, BEFORE VIETNAM LOST THE WAR.

5. THE LATEST HARRIS SURVEY POSED A SERIES OF QUESTIONS TO AMERICANS ABOUT THE USE OF MILITARY POWER TO BACK UP US ALLIES.

6. ALTHOUGH THE PUBLIC STILL FAVORS MILITARY INTERVENTION TO SUPPORT ALLIES, THEY HAVE DEFINITE FEELINGS ABOUT HOW WE SHOULD GO ABOUT IT, BASED ON WHAT HAPPENED IN INDO-CHINA: AN OVERWHELMING, 87-4 PER CENT MAJORITY BELIEVES THAT "WE SHOULD NOT BACK CORRUPT GOVERNMENTS IN THE FUTURE." MOST PEOPLE FEEL THAT SOUTH VIETNAM PROVED IT DID NOT WANT TO DEFEND ITSELF WHEN IT COLLAPSED SO QUICKLY AFTER THE U.S. FINALLY PULLED ITS OWN TROOPS OUT.

7. AN OVERWHELMING, 79-13 PER CENT MAJORITY FEELS "WE SHOULD NEVER AGAIN COMMIT AMERICAN SOLDIERS TO A WAR LIKE VIETNAM," AND A 64-23 PER CENT MAJORITY BELIEVES "THE U.S. SHOULD AVOID ALL GUERRILLA-TYPE WARS."

A. YET A 69-18 PER CENT MAJORITY DOES NOT AGREE THAT BY REFUSING TO DEFEND OUR ALLIES IN VIETNAM, "WE ARE TELLING THE REST OF OUR ALLIES THAT OUR WORD AND OUR COMMITMENTS ARE NOT RELIABLE ANYMORE."
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PAGE 03 STATE 145775

B. A SIZABLE, 66-13 PER CENT MAJORITY FEELS THAT "AGGRESSORS WHO WOULD TAKE OVER OUR SMALLER ALLIES CAN BE STOPPED BY US," AND THUS BELIEVES THAT WARS MIGHT BE NECESSARY IN THE FUTURE. A 60-30 PER CENT MAJORITY DOES NOT BELIEVE "IT IS MORALLY WRONG FOR US TO GO TO WAR ANYWHERE," WHICH, SURPRISINGLY, REPRESENTS AN INCREASE

SINCE JANUARY IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO DO NOT UN-
CONDITIONALLY OPPOSE WAR.

C. A 42-38 PER CENT PLURALITY AGREES THAT "IF WE ARE TO
KEEP OUR COMMITMENTS TO OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES, WE MUST
SOMETIMES FIGHT LIMITED WARS, EVEN IF OUR CHANCES OF
WINNING A CLEAR-CUT VICTORY ARE SLIM."

8. A PLURALITY INDICATED LIKELY SUPPORT FOR SOUTH KOREA
WHEN THE HARRIS SURVEY ASKED A CROSS SECTION OF 1,428
HOUSEHOLDS NATIONWIDE: "THE U.S. HAS 36,000 TROOPS AND

AIRMEN IN SOUTH KOREA. IF NORTH KOREA INVADED SOUTH
KOREA, WE HAVE A FIRM COMMITMENT TO DEFEND SOUTH KOREA
WITH OUR OWN MILITARY FORCES. IF SOUTH KOREA WERE INVADED
BY NORTH KOREA, WOULD YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE THE U.S. USING
TROOPS, AIR POWER AND NAVAL POWER TO DEFEND SOUTH KOREA?"

SENDING U.S. TROOPS TO DEFEND SOUTH KOREA

	NOT FAVOR	OPPOSE	SURE
	PERCENT	PERCENT	PERCENT
NATIONWIDE	43	37	20

BY EDUCATION

EIGHTH GRADE OR LESS	34	34	32
HIGH SCHOOL	45	35	20

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PAGE 04 STATE 145775

COLLEGE	45	41	14
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9. THE PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE (43 PER CENT) WHO THINK THE
U.S. SHOULD SUPPORT SOUTH KOREA IF INVADED BY NORTH KOREAN
COMMUNISTS IS NEARLY THE SAME AS THE PERCENTAGE OF THOSE
(42-38 PER CENT) WHO FAVOR "USING U.S. TROOPS IN LIMITED
WARS EVEN IF OUR CHANCES OF A CLEAR-CUT VICTORY ARE SLIM."
SIGNIFICANTLY, THE COLLEGE-EDUCATED GROUP, WHICH OPPOSED
AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM BEFORE ITS COLLAPSE, SUPPORTS U.S.
MILITARY BACKING OF SOUTH KOREA.

10. THE CROSS SECTION WAS THEN ASKED ABOUT MILITARY AID
TO ISRAEL: AS YOU KNOW, THE U.S. HAS SENT PLANES,
TANKS, ARTILLERY AND OTHER WEAPONS TO ARM ISRAEL. THE
RUSSIANS HAVE SENT SIMILAR MILITARY SUPPLIES TO EGYPT AND

SYRIA. IN GENERAL, WITH THE RUSSIANS ARMING EGYPT AND SYRIA, DO YOU THINK THE U.S. IS RIGHT OR WRONG TO SEND ISRAEL THE MILITARY SUPPLIES TI NAEDS?"

U.S. MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL

RIGHT TO SEND WRONG TO SEND NOT SURE

	PERCENT	PERCENT	PERCENT
MAY, 1975	62	18	20
MARCH	64	18	18
JANUARY	65	21	14

11. THE EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT ALTHOUGH AMERICANS DO NOT WANT TO REPEAT THE MISTAKES WE MADE IN VIETNAM, THEY ARE PREPARED TO BACK OUR OTHER COMMITMENTS AND SUPPORT U.S. EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE GLOBAL PEACE, EVEN IF THAT ENTAILS SACRIFICE. DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT. KISSINGER UNQUOTE INGERSOLL UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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